

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

October 1, 2012

www.op97.org

Important Dates

October 3	Walk to School Day
October 8	No School -- Columbus Day
October 9	Explorer Treasure Chest Project Due
October 12	Social Studies Unit Assessment
October 15	Picture Day
October 16-19	PTO Book Fair
October 16-18	Parent-Teacher Conferences
October 18	Half Day of School
October 19	Half Day of School
October 31	Bowling Outing

Dear Families,

Custom typing is a valuable online tool for your student to use at home to improve finger placement, speed, and stamina. It can be accessed through the "Students" tab on the District 97 web page or by clicking on this link:

<http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

Please be sure to sign up for a conference with your child's teacher. Each conference will last 30 minutes, with 15 minutes spent with each of your child's teachers.

MAP scores were sent home with your child last Wednesday. Please be sure to ask your child for the envelope. You will have an opportunity to discuss the scores with your child's teacher at conferences.

Art - As we complete our Elements of Art projects, we are learning about artist statements and how to write one to explain our artwork to others. Also, going home this week is a form for students who are interested in joining Art Club. We will meet on Wednesdays during recess and will be working on a variety of art projects including school murals, digital art projects and more. Students interested need to follow the directions and submit a letter of interest to me by 9/28.

Music - [Check out the website!](#) We are using recorders again in music this week. If your child cannot find theirs they may bring in 6 dollars cash or check to District 97 to purchase a new one. You may also click here to buy a [recorder online from the Holmes store](#). Please do not buy any recorder other than the ones being sold through school. If financial assistance is needed, email Mrs. Karia at akaria@op97.org.

Chorus - Chorus' first concert is at the Oak Park Arms Saturday, October 27th. Please go to the chorus website for the [lyrics to the songs we are singing as well as the permission slip](#) if you have not signed one for your child yet.

Spanish - The fifth graders have been learning about los conquistadores in Spanish class. We also started a new story, *La Montaña Hamburguesa*. It will be posted soon to the blog!

Library - Over the next few weeks, we will be talking about Banned Books Week (September 30 - October 6) and hearing a book talk for the Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Book Award. Please keep up with us on the library home page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>) and the library blog (holmesmediacenter.blogspot.com). Feel free to email the teacher librarian, Ms. Maneck, at mmaneck@op97.org with questions.

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.

Reading/Literature

This week we will continue on with our first reading unit, "Courage." Throughout this unit, students will read poems, nonfiction texts, fictional narratives, articles, primary source documents, etc that illustrate examples of courage. At the end of the unit, students will be required to write an essay answering the question, "What does it mean to be courageous." During the third week, students will read about remembering the past. The stories they will read this week will be about how and why we remember events from the past.

We will have our second literature circle discussion around the book, *The Breadwinner* on **Wednesday October 3**. Students have been assigned a certain number of chapters to read by Wednesday and must complete a role sheet and four quality questions they will share with their groups. Students who work with Ms. Circo meet to discuss their week's reading each Monday.

Language Arts

This week in language arts we are working on improve sentence fluency in our writing. Students will draft a paragraph about a memorable moment they had with a special adult in their life, and then edit it for sentence fluency. We will read *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen, to gain tips on how to vary sentence beginnings and lengths. Students will use what they learned from Jane Yolen to revise their paragraphs and publish a final draft. Final drafts of their paragraphs will be due **Tuesday, October 9th**.

Math

This week, we will focus on estimation, rounding and probability. This will bring us to the end of Unit 2. Our unit test will be this Friday. We will review for the test in class on Thursday, and students will have a review sheet from which to study. The unit test will cover addition, subtraction and multiplication of whole numbers and decimals, rounding, open number sentences and statistical landmarks. Our next unit will cover division of whole numbers and decimals.

Science

In science this week, we are investigating various energy sources with an activity titled Energy in the Balance. Students will evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of 10 different sources, average their data, and then plot the data on a bar graph and pie chart. This analysis will lead to next week's discussion of the greenhouse effect.

Social Studies

Big Question: What are the important ideas we learned in our early exploration and settlement unit? This week, we will finish up our unit on early exploration and settlement by studying the Dutch and French colonies. On Friday, we will review for our first unit assessment in Social Studies. The unit assessment will be on **Friday, October 12th**. We are giving students the study guide a week in advance so they have ample time to study. Students will also be given two days in class (Tuesday and Thursday) to work on their explorer treasure chest project. This project is due **October 9th**.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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